

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. By way of this reply, claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify that the unit regions are separated with an at least 10- $\mu$ m-wide region free of unit reflecting portions. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Fig. 2 and in paragraph [0030] of the Publication of the Application (Pub. No. 2004/0183966).

**Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C § 102**

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0016323 ("Ikeda"). Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended by way of this reply to clarify the claimed invention recited. To the extent that the rejection may still apply, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a reflector used for a liquid-crystal display device. As shown in Fig. 2, a gap exists between unit regions 3 having a plurality of unit reflecting portions 5. Referring to paragraph [0030] of the Publication of the Application, the smallest average distance between unit reflecting portions as disclosed is 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Accordingly, in order for the unit regions to distinguish from each other as required by the originally filed claim set, the gap between unit regions as depicted in Fig. 2 is inherently required to be at least 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 and 2 require, in part, that the unit regions are separated from each other with an at least 10- $\mu\text{m}$ -wide region free of unit reflecting portions.

Ikeda, in contrast to the present invention, fails to show or suggest at least the above-mentioned limitations as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2. Ikeda merely discloses a reflector having a plurality of unit reflection regions. In the Advisory Action dated June 9, 2006, and in the final Office Action dated December 14, 2005, the Examiner asserts that the sub-unit regions of Ikeda may be arbitrarily grouped to anticipate the claimed invention. However, an arbitrary grouping of the sub-unit regions of Ikeda would not have possibly yielded the unit regions of the claimed invention, which as required in claims 1 and 2 are separated with gaps having a width of at least 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

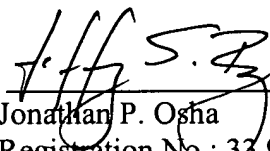
In view of above, Ikeda fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Ikeda. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

## Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please note the enclosed request for a one-month extension of time, and apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115/108001).

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